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THE COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION
OF 1892, OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION.

HON. CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW, *Chairman*. HON. WILLIAM C. WHITNEY, *Vice-Chairman*.
WILLIAM E. D. STOKES, *Secretary*.

At the Board of Trade of Providence, Rhode Island, there was held on the 8th October, 1889, a meeting of the mercantile and manufacturing interests of the State, to ascertain the feelings of the State in regard to the location of the International Exposition of 1892. His Excellency Governor Herbert L. Ladd, who presided, had invited the Mayors of New York and of Chicago to present the claims of their cities.

In response to this, the Mayor of New York referred the invitation to the Committee on Legislation. Mr. Depew, the Chairman, sent the telegram, and Mr. Stokes, the Secretary, sent the letter which follows:

NEW YORK CITY, Oct. 8th, 1889.

To His Excellency GOVERNOR LADD,
Providence, Rhode Island:

The Mayor has referred your telegram to the Committee on Legislation, and I am just in receipt of it. We find it impossible for a representative to be at your meeting to-day. New York is deeply in earnest and will use every effort to secure the Fair and to make it a success. Our Secretary, Mr. Stokes, has sent you a communication. We confidently rely on the assistance of Rhode Island in making the Fair at New York the greatest exhibition ever held.

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW.

NEW YORK, 146 BROADWAY, {
October 7th, 1889. }

To His Excellency GOVERNOR LADD,
Providence, R. I.

SIR :

Your telegram to His Honor Hugh J. Grant, Mayor of this City, inviting him to present at the meeting to be held at noon, to-morrow, at Providence, the claims of New York, as the location for the Exposition of 1892, was received to-day, and was referred by him to me, as he telegraphed to you.

I regret that I am not able, at such short notice, to arrange this evening to attend your meeting in person. I will, however, on behalf of the Committee on which I am placed by the Mayor, endeavor briefly to state to you the reasons why the Exposition of 1892 should be held in the City of New York.

The chief reason is found in the fact that the proposed fair is to be an International one. It should, therefore, be held at the city most accessible to foreign countries. No other place meets this condition.

New York is the great seaport of the continent, most frequented by steamers and with the largest number of arrivals and departures of trans-Atlantic passengers. It is the commercial centre, and in financial and business affairs it is the heart of the continent. It is, as well, the greatest manufacturing city, and all this can be affirmed without disparagement of any other city.

Of the whole continent, extending 3,000 miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific, more than one-third of the population is contained in States within 400 miles of New York. Within ten miles of the city there are about three and one half millions of people. It is the most accessible point on the seaboard, by railroad and water transit, and is the terminus of every railroad.

It has the largest hotel accommodation for travelers.

These considerations have force because the success of the Exposition depends upon the number of visitors who daily seek admission. This number depends on local density of population and accessibility to those who travel to attend it.

The experience of European nations in managing and locating their great fairs enforces these views.

They have located them at their great centres of population and travel, at Paris, London and Vienna, and never elsewhere.

New York City is known all over the world better than any other city of this country, and as well as London or Paris.

It has come to equal, and in some respects surpass them among the great cities of Christendom. The site selected for the Fair has more than ample area and is along the border of the Hudson River, where vessels can land at the Fair grounds in deep water, and this water communication is not broken by a shallow or a bar for ships of a heavy draft to all the remote shores of the ocean. This means cheap freight and charges for all the exhibits sent to the Fair. The site rises from the water border to a round hill 150 feet in height, with a flat top, admirably adapted for public buildings. There is no such site within the limits of any city in this country or in Europe. It commands a view of forty miles in every direction, from the mountains to the sea. It is surrounded by beautiful parks.

For healthfulness and cool summer breezes over the broad Hudson River, and from Long Island Sound, it is the pleasantest spot in the whole Atlantic slope. New York City itself is the finest exhibit this country has to show. Not only does the city meet all the conditions required for the location, but these conditions exclude every other city. The site has been determined and the financial plans will be well matured and acceptable, for the Fair is to be International and not a Fair of this country or any section of it.

We celebrate the discovery by Columbus ; he crossed the

sea four centuries ago ; he reached the continents of North and South America ; he did it for the countries of Europe, whose explorations forthwith extended over the whole earth. It is not simply an affair of our country, but for the whole world. And for this, not we alone, but all nations and peoples unite to do him honor. The Fair must of necessity be International and the only location is the chief city of the New World which he discovered.

Yours very respectfully,

W. E. D. STOKES,
Secretary.

The response from Chicago was by Mayor Dewitt C. Cregier :

CHICAGO, 7th October, 1889.

GOVERNOR LADD :

We respectfully submit the following questions and suggestions :

FIRST.—What are the indispensable requirements of an eligible location for the World's Fair ?

SECOND.—Confining our question to cities of over a million inhabitants, has any other than Chicago so cool, comfortable and wholesome a Summer climate : Can any offer to millions of visitors in the dog days an equal immunity from sun stroke and disease.

THIRD.—Has any so limitless a supply of fresh air and fresh water as the works now in process of construction insure to Chicago from the great lake which is at once her refrigerator and her fountain.

FOURTH.—With her eleven hundred and sixty hotels and thirty-eight railroads, can any offer equal hotel accommodation and railroad facilities, with assurance from hotels of no increased charges, and with like assurance that inland

transportation of foreign exhibits will not exceed the cost that will be incurred in the unavoidable breaking bulk with extra carting and handling elsewhere.

FIFTH.—As World's Fairs and national celebrations have hitherto been held in the extreme East and South, is it not the West's turn now, by the rules of rotation and by every consideration of comity and fairness.

SIXTH.—Why should not all Americans and attending foreigners have an opportunity of judging of the country as a whole, not by a mere inspection of its outer edge, but by coming into its body and witnessing its phenomenal success.

SEVENTH.—Why should they not all come to its greatest inland city, a fair in itself as a marvelous growth of a few years from a frontier camp to a Metropolis of immeasurable destiny, and see for themselves whether it is true or false that she is the focus of the greatest inland commerce of the world. That she has in fact the finest group of business structures, the most extensive park system, the largest and most beautiful drives, including that named after and worthy of Sheridan, to be found on this continent, and in the absence of an Eiffel tower, another structure, the Auditorium, of several times the cost and incomparably greater utility.

EIGHTH.—Why is it not peculiarly appropriate that the Columbus Exposition should be distinctively and grandly American?

NINTH.—Why should not the nation bid this great young city, covering one hundred and seventy-six square miles, a hearty God speed in the great enterprise with which it grapples. As the West consumes a great proportion of Rhode Island's manufactures, why should not Rhode Island be conspicuous in presenting her manufactured products to her western consumers. A small State, yet her

products being vast, enables her to grasp the situation and take a truly broad and national view of the question.

Please defer action for a week and we will send a representative who will present facts of greater importance bearing upon this subject. Answer.

DEWITT C. CREGIER.

In accordance with this request the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, 15th October, 1889. To this meeting the Committee on Legislation sent the following letter :

NEW YORK, 14th October, 1889.

To his Excellency, the Hon. HERBERT H. LADD,
Governor and Chairman, Providence, R. I.

SIR :

We recognize the wisdom of the adjournment of your meeting to consider the location of the International Exposition of 1892, and your courtesy in re-opening the discussion of the claims of Chicago for the location.

Besides the considerations we had the honor to present to you at your first meeting, we will add a few further suggestions.

No one is prouder of Chicago than the people of this city. It was a great citizen of New York, who, years ago, said "Young men, go West, and grow up with the country." They went; and so Chicago grew up to be great in obedience to New York. The result is a crown of honor to her. Many of her foremost citizens went from New York. Her men of wealth and intelligence, when they retire from active business, come, many of them, to this Metropolitan and Cosmopolitan City to add to its renown. The bond between us is growing every day and can never be severed.

The elements of Chicago's greatness, recounted by Mayor Cregier, are justly impressive. Every man will uphold

them as he would the praises of a beautiful sister. Her salubrity, her water supply, her hotels, her railroads, her superb buildings, her parks are marvelous, and she is undoubtedly the site for anything that is, as she claims, "to be distinctively and grandly American." But they do not reach the point of making her the focus of Internationality, nor do they claim it.

New York has like elements of city growth and proofs of prosperity; but as New York compares itself with London and Paris, cities rich with the expenditure of centuries and the embellishments of renowned art, it strives modestly after the finest and severest results in building, in the perfection of its adaptations to business and domestic life, and in landscape art as shown in its parks, with a subdued ambition to become the best modern city, not of this country, but of all Christendom. Its commerce is not because of its own efforts, but because the world of ships crowd into its harbor. Its railroads come here to meet and participate in this commerce, and as the great New Yorker whom we have already quoted, Horace Greeley, whom Chicago also venerates, said when he was shown the extent of her great railroad systems, "All these roads have one terminus in New York."

These things make New York the *international* point of this continent. There are few grounds on which to dispute the claim of Chicago to be "the focus of the greatest inland commerce of the world," if that were the question, if this were a national fair, if it were an affair of this continent, but this is to be an *International Exposition* and it is the feature of *internationality* that gives the preference to New York. What the whole country has to do with international affairs passes into and is received from New York. Its growth is a natural concentration, and when foreign visitors with their goods arrive here, they will say, "*Ne plus ultra*," not even for the attractions of beautiful Chicago.

In the May Centennial of this year people poured into

this city, over a million and a half of them, and not one lacked food or shelter; nor were the accommodations of the Hotels exhausted. These are matters of only ordinary every day concern.

Amid a resident population of three and one-half millions the advent of a few hundred thousand more does not put us or them to the slightest inconvenience. The number of passengers carried by our city cars is daily counted by millions.

Our Summer climate so closely resembles that of Rhode Island and is so purified by the sea breezes, that this is one of the favorite spots on the Atlantic coast as a resort for visitors from all the West, who come even from Chicago to New York and Newport to

"Sate them with kisses of the broad Atlantic."

Our nearby resorts along the Jersey coast and on Long Island are healthful and cool in mid-Summer, beyond comparison, and capacious enough for hundreds of thousands. By our new aqueduct our water supply from the pure mountain springs in the Highlands of the Hudson will be quadrupled, and for a "refrigerator" we have on one side three thousand miles of the great ocean, and on the other the mountain breezes of the whole range of the Alleghanies and Catskills.

Even without a Fair, the moment a foreigner who comes here on a visit starts inland to see the country, Chicago as "the centre of our great inland commerce" will be the first attraction.

New York will not be behindhand in financial support. Its leaders in finance are many of them men retired from active business, who move cautiously and surely.

The City authorities have proposed to expend fifteen millions in land and buildings. The proposal for a popular subscription, started at five millions, was so warmly welcomed that it is assured as soon as the Finance Committee